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USIB-D-27.8/2
25 February 1974

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Report of the USIB Metric Panel

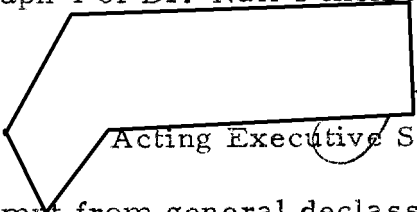
REFERENCE : USIB-D-27.8/1, 6 August 1973

1. The enclosed memorandum from the Chairman of the USIB Metric Panel with its attachments transmit the subject report for USIB consideration. Pursuant to USIB direction in the reference, the report was prepared to determine the desirability and impact of converting to the metric system of units for intelligence reporting. The Panel considered the impact on intelligence collection and production components and on their customers but made no attempt to consider the impact on components which develop or use hardware even though such hardware may later be built to metric specifications.

2. The attached discussion, pages 1-7, and the appendices present an account of the Panel's activities and analyses. The Panel's recommendations are contained in paragraph 4 of Dr. Nall's memorandum.

USIB ACTION REQUESTED

3. Board Members are requested to advise the Secretariat by close of business 6 March of their concurrence or other views on the recommendations in paragraph 4 of Dr. Nall's memorandum.


Acting Executive Secretary

Enclosure

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Memorandum for Holders
USIB-D-27.8/2
14 March 1974

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR HOLDERS OF USIB-D-27.8/2

SUBJECT : Report of the USIB Metric Panel
REFERENCE : USIB-D-27.8/2, 25 February 1974

1. On 14 March all USIB members concurred in the following Metric Panel recommendations:

a. The Intelligence Community should begin using the metric system almost immediately after enactment of the metric conversion legislation. The Intelligence Community should prepare now to implement promptly the legislation.

b. Almost immediately after enactment of legislation, Intelligence Community reporting which is now largely in customary units should be reported in metric units with customary units in parentheses. In those cases where reporting is now exclusively in metric units, no change should take place.

c. Certain customary units, such as the nautical mile and barrel/day, should continue in use with no metric equivalent. Such exclusions as well as all metric units should be consistent with those to be set forth by the Department of Commerce for national use.

d. Each component of the Intelligence Community should begin now to plan for conversion to the metric system. The planning period should last no longer than six months. The plan should include a program for training personnel as may be necessary to meet the objectives of dual and metric reporting. In most cases this training should be carried out within a period of not more than two months immediately following enactment of legislation. The amount of training required for each individual should not normally take more than a few days to provide sufficient familiarization for the beginning of dual reporting. Complete familiarization with the metric system will naturally require considerable time and effort.

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e. The period of dual reporting should be no longer than about 18 months; only in exceptional cases should this period be exceeded. Standard conversion charts should be made available for those who would find them useful. Each component of the Intelligence Community should take steps to determine when its consumers might accept the use of metric units alone.

f. Where planning and training assistance are needed, the panel recommends that each organization make contact with the Metric Information Office, National Bureau of Standards.

g. The Metric Panel should remain in being so that it may monitor the planning for and implementation of the use of the metric system in the Intelligence Community. It is expected that the panel will not meet regularly but only on an ad hoc basis as required.

2. Accordingly, the above recommendations are referred herewith for appropriate implementation in the Intelligence Community.



Executive Secretary

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